

**APPROVED 2/15/11**

## MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

### **DATE & PLACE:**

January 18, 2011, at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Present were Chapman, Hayden, Wagner, Kuhn, Schroeder; Hoff, LCD; Richardson, LCD; Micheel, LCD; Walroth, DNR; Wheeler, NRCS; Larry Revels.

### **MINUTES APPROVAL – 12/21/2010:**

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Hayden to approve the December 21, 2010 minutes as printed.  
Motion carried.*

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly bills.

*Motion by Wagner, second by Schroeder to approve the bills in the amount of \$81,163.76  
Motion carried.*

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

Micheel reported that The Richard Martin runoff control system is completed. This site received a Notice of Discharge (NOD) from DNR. DNR is doing water quality monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the installed practices. The NOD for Hugo Arndt will be completed in 2011.

Richardson reported that 2011 nonmetallic mining fees and annual reports are due by January 31.

Hoff reported that the Attorney General's office has agreed to extend the deadline for the Drews manure storage closure to June, 2011.

### **REVIEW REQUIREMENTS OF BLOCK GRANT FOR LIDAR ACQUISITION:**

Hoff reviewed the Community Development Block Grant that Monroe County received from the Dept. of Commerce for LiDAR acquisition. The grant has several fair housing requirements, including the enactment of a local fair housing ordinance. Hoff will determine the best way to proceed with the ordinance and report back to the committee in February. Hoff said he had discussed the other requirements with the Monroe County Housing Authority staff.

### **DNR REPORT:**

Walroth discussed the "Learn about the Land" classes for woodland owners..

### **NRCS REPORT:**

Wheeler reported that NRCS received 70 applications from Monroe County landowners for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost-sharing.

Wheeler informed the LCC that a meeting will be held with producers on February 22 to discuss Farm Program compliance requirements and issues. NRCS and UWEX staff will participate in the program. The purpose of the meeting will be to answer questions on what cropping practices are acceptable to remain in compliance with program requirements.

Wheeler discussed the NRCS staffing situation in Monroe County. Carlton Peterson (Soil Conservationist) recently accepted a job in Richland County and will be done in Sparta in February. Dave Debilzen (technician) recently retired, so the field office will be short staff. The committee discussed the impact on county landowners.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to notify NRCS of the committee's support for acceleration of the hiring process for filling the Soil Conservation Technician position in Monroe County. Motion carried.*

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for February 15, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Hayden, second by Schroeder to adjourn at 9:45 a.m. Motion carried.*

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Al Hoff, recorder

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

February 15, 2011, at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Present were Chapman, Hayden, Wagner, Kuhn, Schroeder; Hoff, LCD; Richardson, LCD; Micheel, LCD; Walroth, DNR; Wheeler, NRCS; Larry Revels, Kory Revels, Jeff Antony.

**MINUTES APPROVAL – 1/18/2011:**

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Hayden to approve the January 18, 2011 minutes as printed. Motion carried.*

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly bills.

*Motion by Hayden, second by Wagner to approve the bills in the amount of \$37,769.16. Motion carried.*

**APPROVE 2010 WILDLIFE DAMAGE CROP DAMAGE CLAIMS:**

Phil Peterson reviewed two 2010 crop damage claims for Monroe County. Staff recommends payment approval for the following claims:

- Robert Sutton, payable claim of \$508.93
- Arlen Stello, payable claim of \$3,024.51

Peterson answered questions from the committee on administration of the crop damage program.

*Motion by Wagner, second by Hayden to approve 2010 crop damage claims for Robert Sutton and Arlen Stello. Motion carried.*

**CONSIDER NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION PERMIT FOR KORY REVELS/ANTONY EXCAVATING:**

Richardson reviewed the reclamation plan for a proposed limestone quarry on the Kory Revels property in Section 2 of Jefferson Township. The quarry will be operated by Antony Excavating, LLC. The plan shows a post mining land use of wildlife habitat. Slopes above the stable highwall will be sloped to 3:1 or flatted and seeded. Proper erosion control measures will be installed. All application fees and financial assurance have been received. The plan meets ordinance requirements and is recommended for approval by Monroe County staff.

Schroeder had several question about the operation of the quarry that were answered by Jeff Antony and Kory Revels.

*Motion by Hayden, second by Kuhn to approve the submitted nonmetallic mining reclamation plan for Kory Revels/Antony Excavating. Motion carried.*

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Richardson reported on several more inquiries from landowners interested in new nonmetallic mines. There will likely be new reclamation plans to consider at the March LCC meeting.

Micheel reported on the status of the Drews manure storage closure. A June 1, 2011 deadline is in effect for completion of this project.

**APPROVE CREP CONTRACT AMENDMENT:**

Hoff reviewed the amendment to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contract with DATCP. The amendment will adjust Monroe County's spending authority for this program from a balance of \$502,610 to \$452,610. Hoff said this will not impact the administration of this program in Monroe County.

*Motion by Wager, second by Schroeder to approve the proposed spending authority adjustment to Monroe County's CREP contract with DATCP. Motion carried.*

**DISCUSS FAIR HOUSING ORDINANCE FOR CDBG:**

Hoff reported that he discussed the ordinance with the County Administrator and the County Board Chair, and that they requested that the ordinance be prepared through the Land Conservation Committee. Hoff told the committee that Karen Joos recommended that the housing requirements of the CDBG be discussed with the Monroe County Housing Coalition. Hoff will bring the ordinance back to committee after this discussion.

**DNR REPORT:**

Phil Peterson discussed the recent media reports of black bear activity in the Oakdale area.

Walroth discussed the Tree Farmer of the Year award presented by the American Tree Farm System. Walroth will be submitting Jack Halbrehder as a candidate for the award from Monroe County.

**NRCS REPORT:**

Wheeler told the committee that Soil Conservationist Carlton Peterson has accepted a District Conservationist position in Richland County. Combined with the retirement of Dave Debilzen, the Sparta field office is short staffed.

Wheeler discussed the meeting scheduled for February 22 to discuss conservation compliance issues with producers.

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for March 14, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Schroeder to adjourn at 9:25 a.m. Motion carried.*

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Al Hoff, recorder

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

March 14, 2011, at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Present were Chapman, Hayden, Wagner, Kuhn, Hoff, LCD; Richardson, LCD; Micheel, LCD; Walroth, DNR; Wheeler, NRCS; Larry Revels. Jim Schroeder was absent.

**MINUTES APPROVAL – 2/15/2011:**

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Hayden to approve the February 15, 2011 minutes as printed.  
Motion carried.*

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly bills.

*Motion by Hayden, second by Wagner to approve the bills in the amount of \$3,643. Motion carried.*

**CONSIDER NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION PERMITS:**

1. *Fairview Cranberry* – Fairview Cranberry will be operating Fairview Sand Pit in Sections 8 and 17 of Oakdale Township. This is a new quarry. Post-mining land use will be a pond. Financial assurance will be in the amount of \$7,000. A conditional use permit has been issued by Monroe County Zoning.

*Motion by Wagner, second by Hayden to approve the proposed nonmetallic mining permit for Fairview Cranberry. Motion Carried.*

2. *Hi-Crush Operating LLC* – Hi-Crush Operating LLC will be operating High Crush Sand in Section 8 of Byron Township. This is a new quarry. Post-mining land use will be a pond. Financial assurance will be in the amount of \$30,000. Byron Township is not zoned, so no conditional use permit is required.

*Motion by Kuhn, second b Wagner to approve a nonmetallic mining permit for Hi-Crush Operating LLC. Motion carried.*

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Richardson discussed 2011 conservation projects. He also said additional inquiries are being received for nonmetallic mining reclamation permits, and there is a possibility of 2 more permits being submitted for the April meeting.

Micheel reported on the progress of jobs with Ron Drews, Richard Martin, Hugo Arndt, and several Brush Creek landowners. He reported on issues discussed at the professional improvement conference sponsored by the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE).

**REVIEW STATUS OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM:**

Hoff discussed the status of the Farmland Preservation program. With the passage of the Working Lands Initiative in 2009, landowners in Monroe County can no longer sign Farmland Preservation agreements. In order to receive tax credits, Ag Enterprise Areas would need to be petitioned for by landowners and approved by the State. The other possibility would be for townships to adopt

Exclusive Ag zoning. Staff are receiving quite a few questions about this since landowners are doing their income taxes and finding out that they cannot claim either the Farmland Tax Relief credit or the Farmland Preservation credit. Many Farmland Preservation agreements in Monroe County have expired in the last couple of years. At the end of 2011, there will be less than 50 landowners with active Farmland Preservation agreements.

**DISCUSS STATE BUDGET IMPACTS:**

Hoff discussed the provisions of the proposed state budget and the impact to Land Conservation departments and related conservation programs. Staffing grants to LCD's are reduced by about 5%, which results in approximately \$6,000 for Monroe County. The proposal keeps cost-share funds for conservation practices at about the same level. One addition of interest to Monroe County is the addition of \$4 million for dam repair and removal. There are many things unknown at this point, but the budget proposal seems to have impacted conservation programs less than some thought it might. The committee discussed cuts to shared revenue and the budget impact on recycling programs.

**DNR REPORT:**

Walroth reported that tree orders from DNR nurseries are down this year. There will be one delivery of trees to Monroe County.

**NRCS REPORT:**

Wheeler reported on the Conservation Reserve (CRP) program in Monroe County. The last signup resulted in 55 new contracts in the county. Another new signup is starting on March 14. The average rental rate for existing CRP contracts in Monroe County is \$81/acre.

Wheeler updated the committee on the open NRCS technician position in Monroe County and reported on the successful compliance meeting held for producers on Feb. 22.

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for April 19, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Wagner to adjourn at 10:055 a.m. Motion carried.*

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Al Hoff, recorder

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

April 19, 2011 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Present were Chapman, Hayden, Wagner, Kuhn, Schroeder; Hoff, LCD; Richardson, LCD.

**MINUTES APPROVAL – 3/14/2011:**

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Wagner to approve the March 14, 2011 minutes with the following correction: the township name should be changed from “Lincoln” to “Oakdale” under the Fairview Cranberry nonmetallic mining permit discussion. Motion carried.*

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly bills.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Hayden to approve the bills in the amount of \$6,836.45. Motion carried.*

**CONSIDER NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION PERMITS:**

1. *Kevin Griffin Sand Pit* – Kevin Griffin will be operating a sand mine in Sections 31 and 32 of Lincoln Township. Post-mining land use will be cropland. The required financial assurance amount is \$13,500 for 9 active acres. The operator needs to get a stormwater permit and a shoreland zoning permit for this operation. No conditional use permit is required because Lincoln Township is not zoned. No comments were received from the public for this plan. Monroe County staff recommends approval of this permit application

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Hayden to approve a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit for Kevin Griffin. Motion carried.*

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Hoff reported that Micheel has been working with a few landowners on manure storage permits, including responding to a complaint about an overflowing pit. He is also working on streambank projects and some contour strip layout.

Richardson reported on the monthly meeting at the Town of Byron where a discussion was held on mining taking place in the Township. Residents are concerned about various aspects of the mine operations. Richardson explained the reclamation requirements to the meeting attendees. The majority of their concerns were related to the operation of the mine, not the reclamation. Byron Township is not zoned, so the township has limited options concerning regulation of mine operations. Representatives from the mining companies were present at the town meeting to answer questions.

Hoff told the committee that he has received several calls from company representatives inquiring about potential sand operations in Monroe County. The calls have come from all over the country.

Hoff discussed the Discovery Farms project in the Jersey Valley watershed. An informational meeting on the project was recently held in Cashton.

**2011 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:**

Hoff and Richardson discussed several potential cost-share contracts for 2011.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Kuhn to approve the following 2011 Land and Water contracts: Dave Linnehan, Shaun Budde, David Budde, Ron Brown, Chimney Rock LLC, B & G Properties, Terry Parrish, and Joe Helmuth. Motion carried.*

**2010 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT:**

Hoff told the committee that line item transfers are needed to address overages in 2010 line items. A total of \$488.49 will be transferred to the following line items: \$1.80 to Dues, \$19.90 to Work Comp, \$57.28 to Fringe Benefits, \$409.51 to Salaries.

*Motion by Hayden, second by Schroeder to approve line item transfers in the amount of \$488.49 to address overages in 2010 line items. Motion carried.*

**APPROVE FARMLAND PRESERVATION CONTRACT MODIFICATION FOR VALLEY CORP:**

Hoff explained that existing Farmland Preservation agreement holders have the option to modify their agreements to take advantage of new tax credits in the new law. This modification is not beneficial to all existing agreement holders. The new law provides a \$5/acre credit for Monroe County agreement holders. This is a State income tax credit and does not impact property taxes. Hoff discussed the application by Valley Corporation to modify their Farmland Preservation agreement. Valley Corporation meets the requirements for modifying their agreement.

*Motion by Wagner, second by Schroeder to approve the application by Valley Corporation to modify their Farmland Preservation agreement to meet the 2009 law. Motion carried.*

**APPROVE NONPOINT GRANT FOR LAKE TOMAH NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS:**

Richardson informed the committee that the decision was made among staff to not make an application for this grant. Other available funds will be used to cost-share nutrient management plans.

**DNR REPORT:**

No DNR staff were present.

**NRCS REPORT:**

No NRCS staff were present

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for May 17, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Hayden to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. Motion carried.*

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Al Hoff, recorder

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

May 17, 2011 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice chairman Jim Kuhn called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Present were Hayden, Wagner, Kuhn, Schroeder; Hoff, LCD; Richardson, LCD; Micheel, LCD; Walroth, DNR; Wheeler, NRCS; Will Thomas, NRCS; Larry Revels. Chapman was absent.

**MINUTES APPROVAL – 4/19/2011:**

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to approve the April 19, 2011 minutes as printed.  
Motion carried.*

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly bills.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,888.72.  
Motion carried.*

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Micheel reported on the status of several projects, including Ron Hurtz, East Town Dairy, Ron Drews, Jim Weiker, Elvin Martin, John McDonald, Dave Peterson, and Hugo Arndt. Several complaints have been received in the past month relating to runoff from feed lots. Micheel reported that there is considerable interest from contractors in conservation jobs, so the bid results for construction jobs have been encouraging. He reported that he had spoke at a school program in Sparta for Earth Day.

Richardson reported that he has been doing designs for upcoming construction jobs. He also reported on frac sand issues and what is happening in area counties.

**2011 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:**

Micheel and Richardson discussed applicants for cost-share contracts for 2011.

*Motion by Hayden, second by Schroeder to approve 2011 Land and Water contracts for Dan Wroblewski and Chester Borntregger. Motion carried.*

**REVIEW GRANT REQUIREMENTS FOR CDBG FOR LIDAR ACQUISITION:**

1. Review Fair Housing Ordinance: Hoff updated the committee on the requirement for Monroe County to pass a fair housing ordinance as a condition of the Community Development Block Grant for LiDAR acquisition. Hoff passed out a proposed ordinance for Monroe County. The committee authorized Hoff to proceed with the steps necessary to bring a resolution to the June County Board meeting.
2. Set citizen participation meeting: Hoff told the committee that a citizen participation meeting was a requirement of the LiDAR grant. The committee will hold a citizen participation meeting at the June LCC meeting.
3. Fair housing proclamation: The LiDAR grant requires Monroe County to make a fair housing week or month proclamation. Hoff will prepare a resolution for the June LCC meeting.

**DNR REPORT:**

Walroth reported on the 2011 tree planting season. Tree orders from the DNR nursery are down. She reported that 30 new Managed Forest Law applications have been received from Monroe County landowners.

**NRCS REPORT:**

Wheeler introduced Will Thomas, an intern who will be in Monroe County until August.

Wheeler informed the committee that a new Soil Conservationist will be starting in August in the Sparta Field Office. The application process for the vacant Soil Conservation Technician position is continuing.

Wheeler reported that Monroe County has about 35 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts for over \$500,000.

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for June 14, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Hayden to adjourn at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried.*

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Al Hoff, recorder

**APPROVED 7/19/11**

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

June 14, 2011 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice chairman Jim Kuhn called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Present were Wagner, Kuhn, Schroeder; Hoff, LCD; Richardson, LCD; Walroth, DNR; Wheeler, NRCS; Stan Brownell, Wis. Conservation Congress; Chapman and Hayden were absent.

**MINUTES APPROVAL – 5/17/2011:**

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to approve the May 17, 2011 minutes as printed.  
Motion carried.*

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly bills.

*Motion by Wagner, second by Schroeder to approve the bills in the amount of \$5,972.25.  
Motion carried.*

**REPORT ON 2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION OF WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS:**

Hoff introduced Stan Brownell, a Conservation Congress delegate from Monroe County. Brownell is also a District 6 representative (which includes Monroe County along with 6 other counties) on the Executive Council of the Conservation Congress. Brownell is also a member of the Congress' Big Game Committee. Brownell and 2 other Monroe County delegates attended the annual Congress meeting in Wausau May 12-14.

Brownell discussed the other members of the Monroe County delegation and their activities and responsibilities with the Congress. He then reviewed the duties of the Congress. He said some politicians are questioning the value of the Congress, but Brownell believes they have had an impact on legislation and management issues concerning Wisconsin's fish and game. He believes it is worth the \$90,000 budgeted by the DNR in order for the sportsmen of Wisconsin to have a voice in decisions concerning the state's natural resources.

Brownell reviewed some of the main issues that were debated at the annual meeting. The committee then discussed some of the social issues and problems related to hunting.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Micheel was not at the meeting but submitted a written report. He has been working on several manure storage permits and streambank jobs. He also gave presentations for several school programs at Sparta and Brookwood schools. Micheel noted that our office has received several complaints from the public concerning cropping practices involving excessive tillage on erodible land along with the failure of operators to maintain grassed waterways.

Richardson reported on several jobs involving grade structures, streambank riprap, and grassed waterways. He discussed continued inquiries concerning procedures for permitting frac sand mines in Monroe County.

## **2011 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:**

Hoff discussed applicants for cost-share contracts for 2011.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to approve 2011 Land and Water contracts for Leonard Rudi and Ivan Helmuth. Motion carried.*

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION MEETING FOR CDBG AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONROE COUNTY FAIR HOUSING ORDINANCE:**

Monroe County Land Conservation Committee Vice-chair James Kuhn opened the citizen participation meeting/public hearing at 9:20 a.m. Present were Jim Kuhn, Dave Wagner, Jim Schroeder, Greg Wheeler, Al Hoff, and Christine Walroth. Monroe County Conservationist Al Hoff informed those present that the meeting was properly noticed during the past 2 weeks in the Sparta, Tomah, and Cashton papers. Hoff also said that he informed the Monroe County Housing Authority and Monroe County University Extension staff.

1. Review funded activities of CDBG: Hoff reviewed the history of the Community Development Block Grant that Monroe County received from the State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce through the Emergency Assistance Program. The grant was approved in April of 2010 and the award amount was \$358,390. Fourteen counties in southern Wisconsin received grants for LiDAR acquisition following disaster declarations after the 2008 floods. The only funded activity under this contract is the collection of ground surface elevation data capable of supporting 2-foot contours using LiDAR technology. The LiDAR data shall be made available in the public domain. Hoff explained that the main purpose of the LiDAR acquisition will be the development of accurate flood maps. The elevation data will be provided to FEMA, whose responsibility it is to develop the maps. Hoff passed out samples of maps with 2 ft. contour lines developed with LiDAR data. He explained that there are many uses for the data. Some examples include accurate digital elevation and terrain data used for engineering and surveying purposes, the development of 3-D topographic maps, measurement of slopes and cut/fill estimates, and measurement of canopy heights and biomass measurement in forestry inventories. Hoff said many government agencies and private consulting firms are interested in acquiring this data. He estimates that Monroe County staff has received around a dozen inquiries in the past 6 months from companies and government agencies looking for accurate elevation data. The data will be used by several Monroe County departments including Land Conservation, Highway, Zoning, and Emergency Management. Hoff said that Monroe County has received ½ of the grant amount at this point (\$179,150) which was used to pay the first invoice from the vendor, Ayres Associates. Monroe County is scheduled to receive the final products by November, 2011.
2. Review CDBG requirements: Hoff said the CDBG has special conditions that require fair housing activities, including the enactment of a fair housing ordinance. Hoff discussed the information and education requirements concerning fair housing that are required by the grant.
3. Public input on CDBG activities and requirements: There were no comments concerning the grant activities and requirements. Hoff said that no correspondence or phone calls were received from the public concerning the grant. He said local UW-Extension staff will likely assist with I & E activities concerning fair housing.
4. Reading of proposed Monroe County Fair Housing Ordinance: Hoff passed out a copy of the proposed Monroe County Fair Housing Ordinance and reviewed the ordinance. He said the ordinance was approved by the Monroe County Corporation Counsel. The purpose of the ordinance is to assure compliance with fair housing statutes.
5. Public input on Monroe County Fair Housing Ordinance: There were no comments or suggestions on the proposed ordinance. Hoff said that he did not receive any comments

or correspondence from the public on the ordinance.

Vice-chair Kuhn declared the public hearing closed at 9:40 a.m.

**APPROVE RESOLUTION ON MONROE COUNTY FAIR HOUSING ORDINANCE:**

No changes were recommended to the proposed Fair Housing Ordinance, Chapter 25, Article II, Fair Housing.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to approve the Fair Housing Ordinance as presented and bring a resolution to the Monroe County Board for approval. Motion carried.*

**DNR REPORT:**

Walroth reported on several issues, including retirements of DNR staff that will impact the forestry program, a presentation she made to a local Kiwanis Club, and the status of the gypsy moth quarantine.

**NRCS REPORT:**

Wheeler reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding between USDA and Monroe County concerning nondiscrimination and civil rights compliance.

Wheeler reported on the status of the vacant conservation technician position in the Sparta Field Office. He told the committee that about 40 producers were approved for new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts. He said a meeting will be held July 19 for Conservation Reserve Program participants to review management requirements for the program.

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for July 19, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to adjourn at 10:06 a.m. Motion carried.*

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Al Hoff, recorder

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

July 19, 2011 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Present were Wagner, Kuhn, Schroeder; Hayden; Hoff, LCD; Richardson, LCD; Micheel, LCD; Chad Ziegler, Cathy Schmit, Larry Revels.

**MINUTES APPROVAL – 6/14/2011:**

*Motion by Wagner, second by Kuhn to approve the June 14, 2011 minutes as printed. Motion carried.*

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly bills.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Hayden to approve the bills in the amount of \$24,595.81. Motion carried.*

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Micheel discussed the jobs he is working on including manure storage closure for Ron Drews, streambank improvement for Leonard Rudi, Jon Muehlenkamp and Todd Nevin, grass waterways for Nate Abbott, barnyard runoff control for Mark Reget and Gary Weber, and manure storage for Jeff Muellenberg and Bob Radke.

Richardson reported on jobs he is working on including grass waterways for B & G Property Mgmt and Steve Huntzicker, streambank improvement for Dave Budde, and grade structures for Dave Huntzicker and Boots Waters.

Richardson reported on nonmetallic mining activity, including a proposed sand mine near Tunnel City. The mine operator, Unimin Corporation has submitted an application for a reclamation permit, and a hearing will be scheduled for the August LCC meeting.

**2011 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:**

There were no cost-share approvals to consider this month.

**REVIEW TRANSECT SURVEY RESULTS:**

Richardson passed out a summary of the 2011 cropland transect survey results. Corn and soybean acreages in Monroe County are both up from previous years. Forage acreage is down. The calculated soil loss/acre is up for 2011 by 0.6 tons/acre.

The cropland transect survey is used to track cropping trends, tillage practices, and soil erosion rates in the county.

**APPROVE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT:**

Hoff informed the committee that a budget adjustment is needed for the Environmental Construction and Protection revenue and expenditure accounts. These are state funds with no county levy dollars.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Kuhn to approve the following budget adjustments: Increase 10.724.43586 from \$75,000 to \$211,608 and increase 10.724.56924.790 from \$75,000 to \$211,608. Motion carried.*

**DISCUSS TRI-CREEK WATERSHED SITE 3 MANAGEMENT:**

Kuhn gave a background on the County Forest program in Monroe County and the circumstances that led to the hiring of a County Forest Administrator (Chad Ziegler). Kuhn said there has been discussion in the past about entering the wooded acreage of county-owned land at the Tri-Creek Watershed property into the County Forest program. He would like the county to consider this option again. Ziegler reviewed the County Forest program and discussed the benefits to the county and township governments. The Tri-Creek Site 3 property has 121 acres of cropland that is leased out to local farmers. This could be excluded from the county forest and remain in cropland. Larry Revels told the committee that he believes the cropland should be included with the county forest property if an application is made. The committee discussed the positives and negatives about putting the property in the County Forest and agreed to bring the issue up again at the August committee meeting.

**DNR REPORT:**

No DNR staff were present.

**NRCS REPORT:**

No NRCS staff were present. Hoff said a meeting is currently being held for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants to review management requirements and options for CRP land.

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for August 16, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**CLOSED SESSION PER WI STATS 19.85(1)(C) TO CONDUCT ANNUAL EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:**

*Motion by Hayden, second by Kuhn to go into closed session to conduct the performance evaluation of the County Conservationist. Motion carried.*

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Hayden to reconvene to open session and adjourn at 10:05 a.m. Motion carried.*

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Al Hoff, recorder

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

August 16, 2011 at the Monroe County Justice Center, 128 S. Water St., Sparta, WI.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were Wagner, Kuhn, Schroeder; Mc Taggart; Hoff, LCD; Richardson, LCD; Peterson, USDA Wildlife Services; Chad Ziegler; Walroth, DNR; members of the public.

Chairman Chapman welcomed new member Larry Mc Taggart to the committee. Mc Taggart replaced Adam Hayden.

**MINUTES APPROVAL – 7/19/2011:**

*Motion by Wagner, second by Kuhn to approve the July 19, 2011 minutes as printed. Motion carried.*

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly bills.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Kuhn to approve the bills in the amount of \$10,184.28. Motion carried.*

**WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROGRAM ISSUES:**

1. Action on participation in venison donation program for 2011. Phil Peterson, USDA Wildlife Services, explained the venison donation program. Monroe County has participated in the program in the past and has the option of participating in 2011. The program is paid for by the DNR from a surcharge on licenses. There is no cost to Monroe County.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to approve Monroe County's participation in the venison donation program for 2011. Motion carried.*

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Micheel was not at the meeting, but passed out a written report of activities including barnyard runoff for Gary Weber and Mark Reget, manure storage for Ron Hurtz, and Dave Peterson, and streambank work for Gerald O'Gara and Craig Steinhoff.

Richardson reported on projects for Dan Wroblewski and Dave Huntzicker. There has been quite a bit of nonmetallic mining activity recently concerning existing and potential future frac sand mines in Monroe County.

**2011 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:**

Hoff reviewed cost-share requests from Eli Miller for streambank improvement work and from Travis Brooks for a waterway.

*Motion by Wagner, second by Kuhn to approve Land and Water cost-share contracts for Eli Miller and Travis Brooks. Motion carried.*

**9:00 A.M. – PUBLIC HEARING ON UNIMIN TUNNEL CITY PLANT RECLAMATION PLAN:**

Chairman Chapman turned the meeting over to vice chair Jim Kuhn to run the public hearing.

Kuhn called the public hearing to order at 9:00a.m. Kuhn informed those in attendance that the purpose of the hearing was to get input and comments on the reclamation plan, and that there would not be discussion on the general operation of the plant.

1. Review of NR135/Monroe County Ordinance requirements: Kuhn asked Bryce Richardson, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservationist to review NR135 and Monroe County Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation ordinance requirements. Richardson said NR135 was established in 2001 and requires reclamation of all nonmetallic mines over 1 acre in size. The requirements of NR135 are enforced by Chapter 8 of Monroe County Code, which was passed as a result of a state mandate that requires counties to enact reclamation rules. Richardson discussed the ordinance, which requires mine operators to submit a reclamation plan that includes site information, post-mining land use, reclamation measures, criteria for successful reclamation, and plan certification. Richardson discussed the financial assurance requirements which protect the public against possible default by mine operators on the reclamation requirements.

2. Review proposed Unimin Tunnel City Plant reclamation plan: Richardson then reviewed the reclamation plan submitted by Unimin for the Tunnel City Plant. The plan addresses geologic issues including the groundwater depth and location of the sand deposit. It discusses drainage patterns, existing topsoil, and biological resources (wetland, vegetative cover, wildlife). Reclamation measures will be conducted according to Monroe County ordinance requirements, including topsoil management, earthworks, and erosion control. Post mining land use will be wildlife habitat, which will be a mix of forested areas, prairies, and savannahs. Unimin Corporation will be required to submit financial assurance in the amount of \$759,960 to Monroe County.

3. Public question and answer session: Kuhn asked members of the public if they had any question about the reclamation plan.

Greg Eirschele asked if the county issues a permit. Answer by Hoff – yes the county issues a reclamation permit, which the committee will consider after the public hearing.

Greg Eirschele asked how the public would know that industrial waste would not be buried on site. Answer by Hoff and Richardson that industrial waste is regulated by DNR and not the reclamation plan.

Greg Eirschele asked several questions concerning the open acres. He feels not enough is going to be done by Monroe County to limit the amount of open acreage. Answer by Hoff and Richardson – there is no requirement to limit open acreage. It is to the operators advantage to reclaim as they go, which limits open acreage, thus reducing required financial assurance and yearly permit fees. According to the reclamation plan, Unimin will be reclaiming as they go, but they would be allowed to open any amount of acres. The reclamation plan and stormwater plan will require erosion control and proper reclamation no matter how many acres are open.

Brian Eirschele asked about structure removal once mining is completed. Answer by Richardson – Unimin will be removing structures from the site at the end of mining. The map showing the reclaimed condition shows no structures. The ordinance requires the reclaimed map to show structures if any were to be present.

Larry Mc Taggart asked about the impacts to groundwater. Unimin officials said monitoring wells will be used to monitor groundwater, and that they do not intend to use chemicals at this time. Hoff said groundwater standards are set by State Statute.

4. *Public comments:* Kuhn asked members of the public for comments for the record.

Greg Eirschele spoke about this being a major industrial site, not the small gravel pit that he feels NR135 was intended to regulate. He feels this is a minimal reclamation plan with not enough information to properly evaluate. He feels the plan should include a site plan and more detail. Mr. Eirschele wants assurance that things are done right at this site.

Steve Groening, Site Manager for Unimin Corporation said it is his company's intention to abide by all state and county laws. All the estimates and details in the proposed reclamation plan are based on sound engineering practices. Mr. Groening believes the plan meets NR135 and the Monroe County ordinance. He said Unimin is willing to work with Monroe County officials on implementation of this plan.

Brian Anderson, a member of the citizen's committee in the Town of Greenfield, requested that the Town be keep informed of reclamation progress and asked if the Town could provide input on re-vegetation of the site.

Barbara Rice expressed concern about protection of existing wetlands and said efforts should be made to protect and enhance karner blue butterfly habitat.

There being no further public comments, vice-chair Kuhn closed the public hearing at 9:59a.m.

**ACT ON UNIMIN TUNNEL CITY PLANT RECLAMATION PERMIT:**

Vice-chair Kuhn asked for comments from the committee on the submitted reclamation plan. Discussion was that the plan met the county requirements and that most of the public concerns deal with daily operation of the facility which is a separate issue from reclamation requirements. Kuhn asked Richardson if he felt the plan met NR135 and County requirements. Richardson responded yes. Kuhn asked Richardson if he felt the plan addressed the question concerning removal of structures. Richardson responded that he felt it did because no structures are indicated on the final reclamation map. Kuhn asked Richardson about his thoughts on the details and length of the plan. Richardson responded that he felt the plan gets to the point and follows the ordinance requirements, and that a long plan doesn't necessarily make for a better plan.

***Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to approve the submitted reclamation plan for the Unimin Tunnel City Plant pending submittal of the proper financial assurance by Unimin Corporation to Monroe County. Motion passed 3-1-1 (Mc Taggart no, Chapman abstained due to potential conflict of interest).***

After the vote, Chapman commented on his visit to the Unimin plant in Minnesota. He feels that if the Tunnel City site is similar to the Minnesota site, then the residents of Greenfield will be pleased.

Schroeder commented on the importance of comprehensive planning and the adoption of zoning by townships that would like to have a say in the activities in their township.

**DISCUSS COMMITTEE OF JURISDICTION CHANGE FOR COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR:**

Ziegler told the committee that he would like to change committees of jurisdiction from the Zoning Committee to the Land Conservation Committee. He feels it would be a more relevant committee for his duties and would make better use of his time and the time of cooperating agency staff. The idea was already approved by the Reduction, Consolidation, and Privatization Committee as well as the Administrative Committee. The Administration Committee will be forwarding a resolution to the next County Board meeting.

Committee members discussed the request and were in favor of the move.

**ACT ON TRI-CREEK WATERSHED COUNTY FOREST PROGRAM ENROLLMENT:**

Chad Ziegler followed up on last month's discussion concerning the possibility of entering the wooded acreage of the Tri-Creek Watershed property into the County Forest Program. Ziegler said that 609 acres would be eligible. Hoff noted that the 5 acre crop field east of Morris Creek is currently under lease to a local landowner until 2015. Ziegler said that land could be entered after the contract expires.

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Wagner to prepare a resolution for County Board authorizing the wooded acreage at Tri-Creek to be added to the Monroe County Forest. Motion carried.*

**DNR REPORT:**

Walroth reported that she is working with 12 landowners who will be planting trees on land entered into new CRP contracts.

**NRCS REPORT:**

No NRCS staff were present

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for September 20, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to adjourn at 10:12 a.m. Motion carried.*

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Al Hoff, recorder

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

September 20, 2011 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. Present were D. Wagner, J. Kuhn, J. Schroeder; L. Mc Taggart; A. Hoff, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; B. Micheel, LCD; C. Ziegler, County Forest and Parks; G. Wheeler, NRCS; D. Gunderson, NRCS; C. Walroth, DNR; Larry Revels, Doug Fries Jr., Rob Larson, P. Peterson, APHIS;

**MINUTES APPROVAL – 8/16/2011:**

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Kuhn to approve the August 16, 2011 minutes as printed. Motion carried.*

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly bills.

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Schroeder to approve the bills in the amount of \$15,026.79. Motion carried.*

**WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROGRAM ISSUES, DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**

1. *Review of 2012 budgets.* – Peterson presented the preliminary 2012 Wildlife Damage and Claims Program budget to the committee. This is non-levy money, paid for by a surcharge on hunting licenses. The total 2012 budget for Monroe County is \$38, 425.20.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to approve the 2012 Wildlife Damage and Claims budget for Monroe County in the amount of \$38, 425.20. Motion carried.*

2. *Set 2011 crop prices.* – Peterson said USDA does not have the proposed crop prices prepared. They will be considered at another meeting.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Richardson discussed streambank improvement jobs for Shaun Budde and Gene Miller. He discussed money that may be available from an enforcement case to do streambank work in the Lake Tomah Watershed. The exact amount is not presently known.

Richardson and Hoff discussed nonmetallic mining activity. There have been a couple new inquiries from companies considering frac sand mines, but no applications have been received as of this time. Richardson has been working with Kevin Griffin and Fairview Cranberry on possible changes to their reclamation plans.

Micheel discussed the jobs he has worked on the past couple months: Barnyard runoff systems for Gary Weber, Hugo Arndt, Dick Martin; streambank improvement for Craig Steinhoff, Bill Meyers, Gerald O’Gara, Simon Wells, Susan Cooley, Gerard Leis, Todd Nevin, Ivan Hellmuth Eli Miller, Chester Borntrenger, and Rick Von Ruden; manure storage for Ron Hurtz and Bob Radke.

**2011 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:**

There were no cost-share approvals to consider this month.

**REPORT ON JERSEY VALLEY MEETING:**

Chapman and Kuhn attended the twilight meeting held at one of the Discovery Farms monitoring sites in the Jersey Valley Watershed. The purpose of the monitoring stations is to gather data on

nutrient loss from fields under various management conditions, then work with landowners to make management changes to address runoff issues. Kuhn and Chapman discussed their thoughts on the meeting.

**REVIEW AND SIGN TRI-CREEK SITE 3 RESOLUTION:**

Chairman Chapman recognized Doug Fries Jr., who asked that the wishes of the Ridgeville Town Board be considered in deciding whether to enter the Tri-Creek property into the County Forest program. Fries spoke against entering the property in the County Forests. He said the Town Chair is opposed also, and Fries said the Town Board let the LCC know in 2009 that they were opposed to this action. Their opposition is because of the long-term commitment of the County Forest program which would make it difficult to get out of the program if desired. Rob Larson, a Ridgeville resident also said he was opposed to entering the property in the County Forest for similar reasons.

Mc Taggart asked about the plusses and minuses of putting the land in the County Forest. Ziegler reviewed the requirements of the County Forest Program. The major benefit would be better management of the woodland resources. Another benefit would be income for the County and Township. A negative may be that it is difficult to remove the land from the program, but some also might consider that a plus.

The committee discussed the request by Fries to consider the opinions of the Ridgeville residents. The committee discussed the difficulty of getting a good handle on what the majority opinion is. Hoff suggested that the opinion of the Village of Norwalk should be considered also.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Mc Taggart to postpone the Tri-Creek County Forest resolution until more information is received from the Township of Ridgeville and the Village of Norwalk. Motion carried 3-2 (Kuhn and Wagner no).*

**DNR REPORT:**

Walroth said the forestry staff have been working on tree planting plans. She also passed out a summary of DNR aid payments to counties, which is based on acreage enrolled in forestry programs in the county, Monroe County receives \$20,538 in 2011, which is intended to make up for lost tax revenue from land entered into forestry programs. She then answered questions and discussed gypsy moth quarantine and the emerald ash borer issues.

**NRCS REPORT:**

Wheeler introduced Dan Gunderson, the new Soil Conservation Technician in the NRCS office in Sparta. Wheeler also told the committee that Veronica Alba has transferred to the office to take the vacant Soil Conservationist position.

Wheeler said there were 45 Conservation Reserve Program offers in the last signup, with 37 of those offers accepted by the government. Wheeler passed out a summary of the Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP) program.

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for October 18, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Wagner to adjourn at 10:25 a.m. Motion carried.*

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Al Hoff, recorder

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

October 18, 2011 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Present were J. Kuhn, J. Schroeder; L. McTaggart; A. Hoff, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; B. Micheel, LCD; C. Ziegler, County Forest and Parks; G. Wheeler, NRCS; V. Blount, NRCS; K. Schilling, DNR; Larry Revels, Inez Epstein, Mike Luethe. Dave Wagner was absent.

**MINUTES APPROVAL – 9/20/2011:**

*Motion by McTaggart, second by Schroeder to approve the September 20, 2011 minutes as printed. Motion carried.*

**WLWCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE:**

Hoff passed out information on the annual conference of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation association to be held December 8-9 in Wisconsin Dells. Committee members will contact Hoff if they decide to attend. Staff members will attend.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Kuhn to approve the bills in the amount of \$20,863.64. Motion carried.*

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Richardson discussed a waterway project for Dave Linnehan. Richardson and Hoff discussed nonmetallic mining activities, including a possible mine near the City of Sparta. The landowners have applied for annexation to the City, which would allow the sand company to deal with one government entity in the conditional use process instead of two. Richardson said he receives several call each week concerning frac sand. He also discussed a complaint concerning improper waste disposal at a limestone quarry.

Micheel discussed jobs for Hugo Arndt (barnyard runoff), and Larry Hoeft (grade structure). He discussed the stream improvement work on Brush Creek for Eli Miller, Chester Borntregger, and Joe Helmuth. Micheel discussed the improvement in water quality in Brush Creek as a result of the work over the past several years. He is also working on streambank work for Todd Nevin and Gerrard Leis, in addition to starting to look at jobs for 2012 construction.

**2011 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:**

Micheel presented Land and Water cost-share requests for Michelle Rasmussen, Travis Leis, and Simon Wells.

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Schroeder to approve cost-share contracts for Michelle Rasmussen, Travis Leis, and Simon Wells. Motion carried.*

**REPORT ON RIDGEVILLE AND NORWALK MEETINGS ON TRI-CREEK, DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**

Ziegler said he attended meetings last week at the Town of Ridgeville and the Village of Norwalk. Each discussed management of the Tri-Creek property along with the issues related to entering this property in the County Forest program. Ziegler thought the Village of Norwalk didn't have a strong opinion either way on the County Forest issue, but they would like to be kept informed on

the discussion. He felt Ridgeville supervisors had feeling on both sides of the issue. Both municipalities would like to have discussions with the Land Conservation Committee on the issue.

The discussion turned to the existing management of the land, including fencing issues, hunting issues, and forestry issues. Mike Luethe and Inez Epstein, landowners bordering the Tri-Creek property, gave their opinion on these issues. Hoff said that any fencing issues should be directed to him and they would be taken care of. Ziegler and Schilling explained the advantages of the County Forest program as it relates to forest management. Schilling said an evaluation of the Tri-Creek property is on his "to-do" list, but he has not got to it yet. Luethe feels there is timber that needs to be harvested. Epstein expressed her opinion on timber harvesting techniques that might be used, her concern being protecting rare plants and animals and controlling the spread of invasive plants. Luethe also feels the area is over-hunted. There was a consensus among committee and staff that the hunting issue is tough to resolve because this is public property open to everyone. It was also discussed that the fencing and hunting issues are not pertinent to the discussion of entering the property in the County Forest because these issues will exist whether or not the property is entered in County Forest.

Luethe said he does not advocate selling the property, and except for the issues noted above is ok with the way things are now. He does not want the property entered in County Forest because of the long term commitment that takes away future options.

Inez Epstein said that Ridgeville is forming a citizens advisory committee to talk about the Tri-Creek property. She asked that the committee postpone any decisions for 2 months in order for that committee to meet and make some recommendations.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to postpone any decision on Tri-Creek for 2 months and include the issue on the December agenda. Motion carried 3-1 (Kuhn).*

#### **2012 CONSERVATION AIDS APPLICATION – DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

Hoff explained the Conservation Aids program, which is a matching grant from DNR that can be used for fish and wildlife habitat improvement. Monroe County is eligible for a 2012 grant in the amount of \$2,442. Hoff is recommending it be used for fish habitat and stream improvement on Morris Creek in the Village of Norwalk.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to apply for a 2012 Conservation Aids grant for Morris Creek, and to send a resolution to County Board giving the County Conservationist the authority to administer the grant. Motion carried.*

#### **DNR REPORT:**

Schilling reported that tree planting orders have been declining in Monroe County. He reported that forestry staff have been working on preparing timber sales on state property for 2012.

#### **NRCS REPORT:**

Wheeler introduced Veronica Blount, the new Soil Conservationist in the NRCS office in Sparta.

Wheeler handed out national data on the Conservation Reserve Program. Wisconsin has 398,918 acres enrolled in CRP. Monroe County has 11,414 acres enrolled at an average rental rate of \$70.33/acre.

#### **FORESTRY AND PARKS UPDATES:**

Ziegler updated the committee on the current year park revenue. The Angelo Wayside privy and shelter roofs were shingled, the parking lot was repaved, and a black seal was

applied to the asphalt at McMullen Park

**WCFA FALL MEETING, DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

Ziegler presented the date and agenda for the meeting in Minocqua.

*A motion was made by Schroeder, seconded by Kuhn to approve the attendance of a Committee member to the WCFA Fall Meeting. Motion carried.*

**COUNTY FOREST ROADS, DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

Ziegler updated the committee on logging road issues such as erosion, dumping, and littering. He also explained that as these problems occur, the roads have been gated. Last fall a hunter complained about having to walk to his deer stand; as a result the previous committee decided that a few of the gates should be open during the deer hunting seasons for access. Two of the roads were recently repaired by the WDNR (they used this opportunity for operator training) and seeded; these roads will be closed until it gets closer to the gun deer season.

**UTILITY VEHICLE BIDS, DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

The Forestry & Parks Department solicited bids for a 4x4 Utility Vehicle with a dump box for McMullen Park. Eight companies submitted bids on 21 vehicles. Ziegler passed out a bid summary (attached).

*A motion was made by Schroeder, seconded by McTaggart to purchase a John Deere HPX 4x4 Gator with an electric dump box, plastic bed liner, brush guard, roof, and windshield for \$10,170.00. Motion carried*

**PARK BUDGET ADJUSTMENT, DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

The committee decided that a line item transfer would be the appropriate action to cover the purchase of the utility vehicle.

*A motion was made by McTaggart, seconded by Schroeder to approve a line item transfer from the park salaries line item (10.651.55210.110) to the park capital outlay over \$5,000 line item (10.651.55210.815) for \$2,170.00. Motion carried.*

**PAYMENT OF FORESTRY/PARK BILLS:**

Ziegler reviewed the monthly bills.

*A motion was made by Kuhn, seconded by Schroeder to approve the bills in the amount of \$5,114.83. Motion carried.*

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for November 15, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Schroeder to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. Motion carried.*

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Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

## Utility Vehicle Bid Summary

Company	Scenic Bluffs Equipment		Wood Sales & Service		Frontier Ag & Turf		Portland Implement	
Description	NH 115 rustler	NH 120 rustler	Volunteer, 20 hp	Volunteer, 31 hp	JD 6x4 TH Gator	JD HPX 4x4 Gator	RTV900XTG-A	RTX 900 XTWL-A
Base Bid (min. specs)	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$7,690	\$8,493	\$7,380	\$7,480	\$10,096	\$11,040
electric dump box	\$600	\$450	\$723	\$723	\$650	\$700	\$1,407	incl
bed liner	rubber mat incl	rubber mat incl	239	239	plastic liner incl	220	195	incl
front protection	bumper incl	bumper incl	bumper incl	bumper incl	240	170	269	incl
roof	200	200	289	289	450	310	233	233
windshield	200	200	289	289	260	290	394	394
bed wt. cap. (lbs.)	425	800	1,000	1000	1,000	1000	1,102	1102
notes:	has 32 hrs or order new one	diesel	cub cadet	cub cadet			21.6 hp diesel safety glass:704	21.6 hp diesel safety glass:704
Total w/ options:	\$8,000	\$10,850	\$9,230	\$10,033	\$9,980	\$10,170	\$12,594	\$11,667

Company	Premier Golf						MEE Material Handling	
Description	CarryAll 295	CarryAll 295	CarryAll 295 SE	CarryAll 295 SE	Stealth Nighthawk	Nighthawk Hybrid	1600 XD	Star EV Stalker
Base Bid (min. specs)	9,586	10,834	11,967	13,022	13,849	17,349	10,992	12,736
electric dump box	468	468	468	468	not avail.	not avail.	2,679	not available
bed liner	not avail.				incl.	incl.	312	incl
front protection	223	223	223	223	bumper incl.	bumper incl.	incl brush guard	incl
roof	175	175	356	356	249	249	incl	incl
windshield	148	148	148	148	249	249	incl	incl
bed wt. cap. (lbs.)	800	800	800	800			1,100	450
notes:	gas	diesel	gas	diesel	electric 72 volts	electric 72 volts	Cushman 4x4 truck diesel	electric
Total w/ options:	10,600	11,848	13,162	14,217	14,347	17,847	13,983	12,736

Company	Grangers, LLC			Reinders	
Description	HUV 4414G	HUV 4414GXP	HUV 4421 GX	Workman MDX	MDE
Base Bid (min. specs)	7979.95	8549.95	11779.95	\$9,084	\$9,436
electric dump box	552.95	552.95	Incl	\$500	\$534
bed liner	74.95	74.95	227.95	incl.	incl.
front protection	355.95	brush guard incl	brush guard incl	\$222	\$222
roof	271.95	271.95	222.95	\$417	\$417
windshield	265.95	265.95	183.95	\$197	\$197
bed wt. cap. (lbs.)	400	400	800	1650 ttl payload	1200 ttl payload
notes:	Husqvarna 14 hp Briggs	Husqvarna 14 hp Briggs receiver hitch	Husqvarna 23 hp Kawasaki	Toro 2 WD	Toro 48 volt electric 2WD
Total w/ options:	9,502	9,716	13,215	10,420	10,806

The highlighted column is the vehicle that was chosen for purchase.

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

November 15, 2011 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice-Chairman Jim Kuhn called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were J. Kuhn, J. Schroeder; L. McTaggart; A. Hoff, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; C. Ziegler, County Forest and Parks; V. Blount, NRCS; K. Schilling, DNR; C. Walroth, DNR; P. Peterson, USDA-APHIS. Dave Wagner and Gail Chapman were absent.

**MINUTES APPROVAL – 10/18/2011:**

*Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to approve the October 18, 2011 minutes as printed. Motion carried.*

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

*Motion by McTaggart, second by Schroeder to approve the bills in the amount of \$13,434.44. Motion carried.*

**WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROGRAM ISSUES:**

1. Set crop prices for 2011 program. Peterson explained that the LCC needs to set crop prices for 2011 wildlife damage claim payments. In Monroe County, prices need to be set for alfalfa, corn for grain, and soybeans. USDA makes a recommendation based on average prices throughout the year, but counties can set their own prices.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to set the 2011 Monroe County crop prices at \$141.74/ton for alfalfa, \$5.94/bu. for corn grain, and \$12.42/bu. for soybeans. Motion carried.*

2. Set 90% harvest date. Peterson explained that the 90% harvest date is the date when 90% of the crops in the county are harvested and is therefore the date when damage appraisals are no longer performed.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to set December 1, 2011 as the 90% harvest date for Monroe County. Motion carried.*

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Hoff reported on jobs being completed by Micheel, including Michelle Rasmussen, Hugo Arndt, Travis Leis, and Travis Brooks.

Richardson told the committee that there has been considerable nonmetallic mining activity, including 4 applications for either new frac sand mines or revisions to existing permits. US Silica has submitted a reclamation permit application for a mine located in the City of Sparta. The City has responsibility for issuing the conditional use permit for this site, while Monroe County is the regulatory authority for the reclamation permit. Hi Crush Tomah LLC has submitted a permit application for a frac sand mine in the Town of Oakdale. Permit revisions have been submitted by Kevin Griffin in Lincoln Township and by Unimin Corporation in Greenfield Township.

**APPROVE PUBLIC FISHING EASEMENT (WILLIAM MEYERS):**

Hoff explained that public fishing easements are sometimes taken on sites where streambank improvement projects are being completed. The easements, which allow public access for fishing, are voluntary.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to approve a public fishing easement for William Meyers, located on a tributary to the Little LaCrosse River in Jefferson Township. Motion carried.*

**DNR REPORT:**

Walroth reported on activities of the DNR forestry office, including educational activities with Sparta Schools.

**NRCS REPORT:**

Veronica Blount reported for NRCS. She discussed the status of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Wetland Reserve Program.

**FORESTRY AND PARKS UPDATES:**

Ziegler gave the committee an update regarding the end of the camping season and winterizing facilities at McMullen Park.

There are no active timber sales; timber sale activity appears to be lower than past years.

**PAYMENT OF FORESTRY/PARK BILLS:**

Ziegler reviewed the monthly bills.

*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Mc Taggart to approve the Forestry and Parks bills in the amount of \$28,267.13. Motion carried.*

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for December 20, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to adjourn at 9:43 a.m. Motion carried.*

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Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

December 20, 2011 at the Monroe County Justice Center, 128 S. Water St., Sparta, WI.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice Chairman Jim Kuhn called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Present were Wagner, Kuhn; Mc Taggart; Chapman (arrived at 8:40); Schroeder (arrived at 8:43); Hoff, LCD; Richardson, LCD; Chad Ziegler, Forestry & Parks; Schilling, DNR; members of the public.

**MINUTES APPROVAL – 11/15/2011:**

*Motion by McTaggart, second by Wagner to approve the November 15, 2011 minutes as printed.  
Motion carried.*

**PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly bills.

*Motion by McTaggart, second by Wagner to approve the bills in the amount of \$72,564.60.  
Motion carried.*

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Hoff reported on Micheels' activities, including finishing up jobs for Hugo Arndt, Ron Hurtz, Travis Leis, Travis Brooks, and Michelle Rasmussen.

Richardson reported that he has spent the last month working on frac sand reclamation applications. He reported on the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association annual conference.

**APPROVE LINE ITEM TRANSFER:**

Hoff said the motor vehicle account will be over budget due to several unforeseen maintenance issues.

*Motion by Wagner, second by McTaggart to approve a line item transfer of \$1,500 from the Environmental Construction and Protection account to the Motor Vehicle Operations account.  
Motion carried.*

**9:00 A.M. – PUBLIC HEARING ON US SILICA SPARTA PLANT RECLAMATION PLAN:**

Vice-chair Kuhn called the public hearing to order at 9:00a.m. Kuhn informed those in attendance that the purpose of the hearing was to get input and comments on the reclamation plan for the US Silica site in the City of Sparta.

1. Review of NR135/Monroe County Ordinance requirements: Kuhn asked Bryce Richardson, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservationist to review NR135 and Monroe County Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation ordinance requirements. Richardson said NR135 requires reclamation of all nonmetallic mines over 1 acre in size. The requirements of NR135 are enforced by Chapter 8 of Monroe County Code, which was passed as a result of a state mandate that requires counties to enact reclamation rules. Richardson discussed the ordinance, which requires mine operators to submit a reclamation plan that includes site information, post-mining land use, reclamation measures, criteria for successful reclamation, and plan certification. Richardson discussed the financial assurance requirements which protect the public against possible default by mine operators on the reclamation requirements.

2. Review proposed US Silica Sparta Plant reclamation plan: Richardson reviewed the reclamation plan submitted by US Silica for the Sparta Plant. The plan addresses geologic issues including the groundwater depth and location of the sand deposit. It discusses drainage patterns, existing topsoil, and biological resources (wetland, vegetative cover, wildlife). Reclamation measures will be conducted according to Monroe County ordinance requirements, including topsoil management, earthworks, and erosion control. Post mining land use will be a reservoir/lake used for recreational purposes. US Silica will be required to submit an initial financial assurance in the amount of \$722,891 to Monroe County.

3. Public question and answer session: Kuhn asked members of the public if they had any question about the reclamation plan.

Mike Guy asked questions concerning the potential impact on groundwater temperature and possible reduced groundwater levels due to evaporation. He feels that the water in the lake could warm the groundwater which would impact him and other neighbors that have shallow wells. Richardson responded that he posed those questions to the Groundwater Center at UW Stevens Point and to DNR staff. They both felt that the amount of evaporation that will occur will not significantly affect the aquifer. Their opinion was that while the water in the lake will likely warm, it is not likely to have an impact on the temperature of the aquifer.

Hoff asked Jeff Jahn from US Silica about their findings on this issue. Mr. Jahn said an independent hydro geologist hired by their company did not foresee significant groundwater issues associated with the proposed operation.

4. Public comments: Kuhn asked members of the public for comments for the record.

Todd Fanning, Director of Community Development for the City of Sparta said the Sparta Planning Commission passed the Conditional Use Permit request at their meeting the previous night. He said City officials have reviewed the reclamation plan and do not have any issues with the plan.

Brad Gilbertson, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Sparta addressed the recreation components of the reclamation plan. He said his department is willing to work with US Silica on the recreation aspects. He feels the additional recreational opportunities will be a positive for the region.

There being no further public comments, vice-chair Kuhn closed the public hearing at 9:20 a.m.

**ACTION ON US SILICA SPARTA PLANT RECLAMATION PERMIT:**

Vice-chair Kuhn asked for comments from the committee on the submitted reclamation plan.

Richardson told the committee that US Silica does not yet have a Chapter 30 permit from DNR. There is a possibility that conditions on this permit could impact the reclamation plan. He recommends a reclamation permit would not be issued until financial assurance is received, and the Chapter 30 permit is issued by DNR.

***Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to approve the submitted reclamation plan for the US Silica Sparta Plant pending submittal of the proper financial assurance by US Silica to Monroe County, and pending issuance of a Chapter 30 permit by DNR. US Silica will need to contact***

*Monroe County within 30 days of the issuance of the Chapter 30 permit if any reclamation plan changes are required. Motion passed 5-0.*

**REVIEW/ACT ON RECLAMATION PLAN REVISION FOR UNIMIN TUNNEL CITY PLANT:**

Richardson explained that this is a revision of the reclamation permit issued in August, 2011. The reason for the revision is the addition of parcels that were not part of the original application.

Wagner asked Unimin officials to explain the activity that is going on there now. Unimin said they have been clearing the site, constructing access to Hwy 21, and preparing a building site.

McTaggart asked about the old township dump. Unimin said they are preparing a new site for Greenfield Township.

Kuhn asked for any comments from the public. There were none.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to approve the revision to the Unimin Tunnel City Plant reclamation plan. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Chapman abstained)*

**REVIEW/ACT ON HI CRUSH-TOMAH RECLAMATION PERMIT:**

Richardson reviewed the proposed reclamation plan for Hi Crush-Tomah. This will be a new mine with frac sand being mined. The planned post-mining land use is cranberry bed and reservoirs. The initial financial assurance will be \$42,500 for 17 acres. The plan meets the requirements of the Monroe County Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation ordinance.

Town of Oakdale resident Ted Witas asked several questions concerning the relationship between the Conditional Use Permit and the reclamation permit. Hoff and Richardson explained that they are separate issues. Hi-Crush cannot mine without obtaining both permits.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Chapman to approve the submitted reclamation plan for the Hi-Crush Tomah plant pending submittal of the proper financial assurance by Hi Crush Operating LLC to Monroe County, and pending issuance of a Chapter 30 permit by DNR. Hi Crush will need to contact Monroe County within 30 days of the issuance of the Chapter 30 permit if any reclamation plan changes are required. Motion passed 5-0.*

**REVIEW/ACT ON RECLAMATION PLAN REVISION FOR KEVIN GRIFFIN SAND MINE:**

Richardson explained the reason for the plan revision. The plan was originally to return the mined area to cropland, but Griffin would now like to use the area as a cranberry reservoir. Richardson said DNR has not issued a permit for the pond yet. If DNR would reject the permit, the reclamation plan would still be cropland.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to approve the submitted revision to the reclamation plan for the Kevin Griffin Sand Mine, pending approval of a pond permit from DNR. Motion carried 5-0.*

**REPORT FROM TRI-CREEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

Inez and Eric Epstein appeared along with Rob Larson as representatives of a committee appointed by the Township of Ridgeville to advise Monroe County on management options for the Tri-Creek Watershed property. They presented their initial findings and recommendations (attached). The advisory committee would like a thorough inventory of the property to include various natural resource components. They envision using the collected data to develop a comprehensive management plan for the property. They would like Monroe County to postpone any decision as to enrolling the land in the County Forest Program until more information is

gathered and more discussion takes place.

Chad Ziegler said he did a walkover of the property, including the majority of the boundary. He gave his opinion on some of the findings in the Ridgeville Recommendations report. Ziegler said he had talked to the Norwalk Village president, who told him they remain neutral as to whether the property should be enrolled in the County Forest.

LCC members asked question of the Ridgeville members. No action was taken.

**FORESTRY AND PARKS UPDATE:**

Ziegler gave the committee an update regarding the off-season work being completed at McMullen Park and a year end up date of Forestry/Parks budgets. The new utility vehicle was delivered in early December.

There are no active timber sales; timber sale activity is lower than past years; the county forest revenue is going to be approximately \$28,000 less than what was budgeted

**PAYMENT OF FORESTRY AND PARKS BILLS:**

The committee reviewed the monthly bills.

*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Chapman to approve the bills in the amount of \$87,285.71. Motion carried*

**DNR REPORT:**

No DNR staff were present.

**NRCS REPORT:**

No NRCS staff were present

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for January 17, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Schroeder, second by Wagner to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. Motion carried.*

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Al Hoff and Chad Ziegler, recorders

## **Town of Ridgeville Recommendations concerning the Tri-Creek Watershed Property**

### ***Background***

The Tri-Creek Watershed property (868 acres) is situated wholly within the Town of Ridgeville. After destructive flooding of the Village of Norwalk in 1970, the property was purchased largely to prevent future flooding. Ridgeville, Norwalk, and Sheldon contributed funds to the purchase. Tri-Creek Watershed property is of continued importance to the public health and safety of the Town of Ridgeville, as well as the Village of Norwalk.

### ***Current Situation***

The Monroe County Land Conservation committee is considering a proposal to enroll a major portion (approx. 600 acres), but not all, of this property under the state's County Forest Law. As residents of the Town have expressed a number of concerns about the management and disposition of this public property and merely enrolling the property under County Forest Law does nothing to address the issues and concerns of our residents, the Town has decided to look into the matter and appointed a citizen's advisory committee to do so.

### ***Significant Findings***

Though only recently formed, the Tri-Creek advisory committee has found, most significantly, that:

- ▲ a comprehensive up-to-date inventory of the natural resources (timber, ecological, recreational) within this property does not exist; and,
- ▲ there is no plan for this property, whether under current management or if enrolled as County Forest, to guide its responsible management and maintenance in terms of its economic, ecological, and recreational value; and,
- ▲ sensitive resources (e.g. natural springs, rare birds, wood turtles, and wetlands) that the county is required by law to protect are found within the Tri-Creek county land; and
- ▲ breaking up the property into two departmental responsibilities and management approaches is unlikely to improve the quality of management and is ecologically risky.

The above findings are not exhaustive. The advisory committee is gathering and researching further information as well. However, a time constraint was imposed by the Land Conservation committee of the Monroe County board to address their December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### ***Recommendations of the Committee supported by the Town Board***

At its meeting on December 12th, the Ridgeville Town Board adopted the recommendations of the advisory committee that no changes to or decisions concerning the disposal of the Tri-Creek Watershed property, including enrollment in County Forest Law, be made until the following have been completed:

1. A comprehensive inventory of the natural resources within the Tri-Creek property be compiled; and
2. A comprehensive plan for the management of the Tri-Creek property be developed; and
3. All appropriate options (e.g. remain as is, enroll as County Forest, turn into community forest, and create County Park) for the disposition of this property be considered.

The Town, through its Tri-Creek Advisory Committee, will cooperate with and assist the Land Conservation committee and County staff in developing the above.

## ***Appendix I: Elements of a Comprehensive Resource Inventory***

Data already compiled by the advisory committee:

1. Soils
2. Tri-Creek Watershed land boundaries
3. Ortho imagery – multiple years with 2010 most current
4. Topography
5. Land use - Land Cover from remote sensed Land Sat imagery
6. 10 meter Digital Elevation Models
7. Slope and Aspect maps
8. Geology
9. PLSS sections
10. Moore Creek Watershed boundary derived from 12 digit HUB

All data listed is in digital format and is ready for additional analysis.

Data that needs to be gathered:

11. Forest and plant inventories
12. Wetlands
13. Spring locations
14. Stream, water quality analysis
15. Uplands
16. Existing trails, old logging roads, other corridors
17. Threatened and Endangered species identification – both aquatic and terrestrial
18. Access and location for Emergency Services
19. Invasive species locations – both aquatic and terrestrial
20. Erosion prediction data for cropland within Tri-Creek Watershed
21. Boundary fence inventory to include areas requiring maintenance

## ***Appendix II: Elements of a Comprehensive Plan***

Flood control

Timber management and sustainable harvest

Management of leases to local farmers in line with other elements

Regulation of hunting with special provisions for disabled veterans (in conjunction with VA)

Conservation of sensitive and endangered ecological resources

Recreational opportunities (such as hiking, bird watching, and access from bike trail)

## ***Appendix III: Options for the Tri-Creek Watershed Property***

Remain as is (minimal management and oversight)

Enroll all or some of the property under County Forest Law

Create a County Park

Give the Property to Ridgeville and Norwalk to manage as a community forest

Sell the land to the private sector

**9. Frank Best-Tomah Westland Insurance**

Frank Best from Westland Insurance in Tomah presented the insurance package for the 2012 year. He asked if we had any new capital purchases recently which we replied no. He also noted that our deductible has been changed to \$500 instead of \$250. \$500 is now the lowest we can go for a deductible. James Becher has a question concerning the parking area that has now been marked off. He noted that if a car parked in the wrong place if we would still be covered. Frank Best noted that we would. Dennis Hubbard was present for the evening and wondered with the new Conceal & Carry Law if municipalities should put up a sign or not. Mr. Best said that if we put up a sign we would be liable if we did not check everyone to see if they had a concealed weapon or not but with no sign we not be liable. There was also a question on the Grievance Policy Procedure and noted that we need to bring it up at the next meeting.

There was motion by Jerry Haney accept the proposed presented by Mr. Best. The motion was seconded by Jerry Cooley. Motion Carried.

**10. Tri-Creek Update**

Rob Larson from the Tri-Creed Advisory Committee noted that they had met and he presented their recommendations. They presented information they had gathered with some background information and noted that Jim Schroeder was going to come to the last meeting on last Friday but was unable to make it. Because there was a deadline the land conservation was going to wait until the 20<sup>th</sup> which is their next meeting. The committee felt they needed to get something to the board to consider so it could be presented to the Land Conservation Committee by that time. Mr. Larson summarized what was in the document. They had time to dig up information after talking to some county employees, DNR people and found what is on the document as Significant Findings. Basically the county has no idea what they have on that property, which includes some legal responsibility with endangered species. A lot of their information was taken from state wide averages and if the county would act on what they have they would be doing so lacking some important information. The County Land Conservation committee is proposing to enroll a major portion of that property in the state's County Forest Law. If they merely enroll the property under County Forest Law they would be doing nothing to address the issues and concerns of Ridgeville residents.

Rob noted that a lot more information could be collected but the time does not permit. He noted that Al Hoff and Larry McTaggart have expressed a willingness to work with Ridgeville to address these concerns. So what the committee is recommending to the town is for the town to recommend to the Land Conservation Committee to wait. To wait to make a decision on what they want to do with the property until they get there information down so they know what is out there. Second, we need to look at it to see if we want to put it into the program or not. Next we need to consider all the other options, which the advisory committee listed 5 of those options. They need to look at all those options and see which option would be best for Ridgeville, Norwalk or even Sheldon and possible the county. What the committee is recommending is for Ridgeville to recommend to the Land Conservation Committee to collect the relevant information before any decisions are made. Next they need to have a plan on what they are going to do with the property. And next they need to consider all the relevant appropriate options. Right now it looks like there is chance for Ridgeville and the committee and anyone else who wants to be involved to work with the county to explore the options and gather the information and come up with something that would address the problems that were raised earlier like fencing, hunting, farmers and their leasing, conservation issues and recreational issues. That would take some time and work.

Mike Luethe asked Ron Luethe if he thought they would listen to us at the meeting next Tuesday. Ron mentioned that basically all we can request is for them to postpone it. Mike also mentioned that he would like them to look at every option. It has been this way for years and we should not be such a rush to put it into this program until every option is considered.

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There was a motion by Mike Luethe to accept the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and take this to the Land Conservation meeting on next Tuesday to recommend to them to postpone any decision until the proper information has been gathered and all options looked at. Jerry Cooley agrees and Jerry Haney said that they should look at all options. The motion on the floor was seconded by Jerry Cooley. Motion Carried.

A copy of the minutes of this board meeting along with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee should be forwarded to Al Hoff and also Larry McTaggart.

11. American Transmission Company Routes

12. Approval of Treasurer's Report for November 2011

13. Approval of Bills Paid/To Be Paid

14. Set Next Meeting

The next meeting has been set for January 9, 2012.

14. Adjourn Meeting

There was a motion by Jerry Cooley and seconded by Mike Luethe to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 P.M. Motion Carried.

Rita Williams  
Clerk